

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0456

E.O. 11652: AGDS, 12-31-76

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (EDIP)

REF: STATE 016914 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: CURRENT STATUS OF EDIP (REQUESTED REFTEL IS
THAT PROGRAM, BEGUN IN 1970, IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT EUROGROUP DECEMBER 1974 COMMUNIQUE
DID NOT HIGHLIGHT EDIP BECAUSE PROGRAM IS NOT CURRENT (INITIATED
IN 1970) AND IS NEARLY COMPLETED. HENCE EUROGROUP NOW EMPHASIZING
CURRENT EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENT EFFORT, IE, 1974 EUROPACKAGE.
EUROGROUP INFORMAL SECRETARIAT BELIEVES REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN, MC
CITED IN REFTEL REFER TO FACT THAT LATEST COST ESTIMATES TO
FUND EDIP SHELTERS ARE WELL ABOVE IAU 150 MILLION ORIGINALLY
PLEDGED BY EUROGROUP MINISTERS. WE HAVE REVIEWED TEXT OF CMC'
ADDRESS, AND, EVEN IN CONTEXT, BASIS FOR STATEMENT THAT EDIP
IS "ALREADY HEAVILY IN ARREARS" IS NOT CLEAR.

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2. IN INTRODUCING EDIP IN DECEMBER 1970, EUROGROUP STRESSED
THAT BILLION DOLLAR (AT 1970 EXCHANGE RATES) EDIP THREE-PART
PROGRAM REPRESENTED AN ADDITIONAL REPEAT ADDITIONAL EFFORT
ABOVE AND BEYOND COUNTRY FORCE PLANS FOR 1971-1975 REPORTED

IN NATIONAL RESPONSES TO 1970 DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ). A LIST OF DECEMBER 1970 EUROGROUP EDIP PROMISES AND CURRENT STATUS FOLLOWS:

PART ONE: EDIP NATIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENTS

A. BELGIUM:

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: ALLOCATE SPECIAL FINANCIAL CREDITS TO ACCELERATE AIR TRANSPORT RE-EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.

CURRENT STATUS: C-130H TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT INTRODUCED IN 1973, REPLACING OBSOLETE C-119.

B. FRG:

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: INCREASE BY 53 ITS PURCHASE (FROM US) OF CH-53 HEAVY-LIFT HELICOPTERS.

CURRENT STATUS: ADDITIONAL 53 CH-53 HELICOPTERS ISSUED TO UNITS.

C. NORWAY:

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: REINFORCE PERMANENT DEFENSE IN NORTH NORWAY BY BUILDING NEW BASE INSTALLATIONS AND INCREASE ITS FORCES IN NORTH, INCLUDING COMBAT SUPPORT.

CURRENT STATUS: IN FINNMARK, INFANTRY STRENGTH DOUBLED AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT INCREASED. CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES IN PORSANGER AREA OF FINNMARK FOR AN INFANTRY BATTALION GROUP HAS BEEN COMPLETED. IN 1974 NORWAY BEGAN EQUIPPING PORSANGER GARRISON WITH A 20 MM AA BATTERY FOR DEFENSE OF BANAK AIRFIELD; NORWAY PROJECTS COMPLETION OF AA PROGRAM IN 1975.

D. UK:

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: INCREASE BY FOUR SQUADRONS ITS PLANNED FORCE OF JAGUAR CLOSE-SUPPORT AIRCRAFT.

CURRENT STATUS: UK HAS BEGUN TO INTRODUCE JAGUARS INTO FRONT-LINE SERVICE AND UK INTENDS TO STATION AN INCREASED NUMBER OF JAGUARS IN 2ND ATAF.

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: TO MAINTAIN IN SERVICE CARRIER HMS ARK ROYAL (PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR WITHDRAWAL IN 1972) WITH PHANTOM AND BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT.

CURRENT STATUS: CVA ARK ROYAL IS TO CONTINUE IN SERVICE UNTIL 1978 WITH FULL COMPLEMENT OF BUCCANEERS AND PHANTOMS. CONFIDENTIAL

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DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: BUILD UP AN EXTRA RESERVE ARMORED-CAR RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT.

CURRENT STATUS: ARMORED-CAR REGIMENT FORMED AND OPERATIONALLY AVAILABLE TO SACEUR.

PART TWO: EDIP INFRASTRUCTURE

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: EUROGROUP PROMISED A COLLECTIVE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF IAU 150 MILLION (CURRENT VALUE OF IAU IS \$3.38) OVER FOLLOWING FIVE YEARS.

CURRENT STATUS: EUROGROUP SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO DEDICATE ENTIRE AMOUNT TO CONSTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. OF THE EDIP IAU 150 MILLION APPROXIMATELY IAU 135 MILLION ARE COMMITTED THROUGH SLICE XXV, SHAPE WILL INCLUDE THE BALANCE IN SLICE

XXVI. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING METHODS FOR HANDLING EDIP COST OVERRUNS WHICH ALLIES ORIGINALLY AGREED TO FUND OUT OF NORMAL INFRASTRUCTURE. THESE OVERRUNS ARE PRESENTLY ESTIMATED AT IAU 25-30 MILLION AND MAY INCREASE STILL FURTHER.

PART THREE: INTRA-ALLIANCE AID

EDIP ALSO HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF INTRA-ALLIANCE AID FROM FRG TO TURKEY.

DECEMBER 1970 PROMISE: FRG PROMISED SPECIAL FINANCIAL AID TO TURKEY, IE, 16 C-160 TRANSALL AIRCRAFT.

CURRENT STATUS: 20 C-160 TACTICAL TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT DELIVERED TO TURKEY.

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